

California OES Weather Threat Briefing

Wednesday, December 22, 2021
9:00 AM PST

Day 1 (Wednesday): Periods of rain and mountain snow, with areas of gusty winds will spread south across the state. Rain and snow may be heavy at times, with impacts expected to travel over the mountains. Impacts start today, but will increase even further for Thursday through the weekend.

National Weather Service

*Western Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Salt Lake City, UT*



WEATHER KEY POINTS

12/22/21 - 12/28/21

Wednesday - Tuesday

- A very active weather pattern spread south and east across the state Wednesday and continue through the weekend into early next week.
- Snow levels will rise to around 4500-6500 feet in the Sierra on Wednesday, then decrease again Thursday into Friday.
- Forecast rainfall amounts through Monday morning:
 - 1 to 4 inches across the northern California valleys
 - 3 to 7 inches, for the Sierra foothills, coastal northern California and most Bay Area Mountains, with up to 9 inches across portions of Del Norte County
 - 6 to 12 inches (water equivalent including snow) over the Sierra mountains
 - 1 inch to 2 inches in the San Joaquin Valley
 - 1 to 3 inches for Southern California, except for the Eastern Desert where less than 0.25 inch is expected
- Several feet of mountain snow are forecast above 7000 feet across the Sierra, with significant impact to mountain travel expected through late week. Elevations down to 5000 feet will also see significant snowfall accumulations, but the rain/snow line will fluctuate during the event.
- For the San Joaquin and Southern California, the heaviest accumulations of rain and snow will occur Thursday and Friday.
 - This event could be a moderate impact rain event, with snow at higher elevations.
 - Travel impacts across the Grapevine are possible by Sunday
 - Moderate to brief heavy rain could create a threat of flooding and debris flows across Southern California Thursday through Saturday.
- Snow may affect lower elevation passes down to 2000 feet on Christmas Eve and Day across far northern California, and may fall below 1000 feet on Sunday.
- A series of weaker storms will impact the state into early next week.



CALIFORNIA WEATHER IMPACTS

12/22/21 - 12/28/21

<u>Hazards / Day</u>	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	MON	TUE
Non-Thunderstorm Damaging Winds	Inland	Southern	Southern	Southern	Southern		
Snow	Coastal/ Inland	All Regions	All Regions	Coastal/ Inland	Coastal/ Inland	Coastal/ Inland	
Coastal Flooding							
River Flooding							
Thunderstorms (Wind / Hail / Tornadoes)	Coastal/ Inland	Coastal/ Inland					
Fire Weather (Low Humidity / Wind / Dry Thunderstorms)							
Heat Risk							
Heavy Rain/Flash Flooding/ Debris Flow	Coastal/ Inland	All Regions	All Regions	All Regions	Coastal/ Inland	Coastal/ Inland	
Cold							



No Impacts



Minimal Impacts



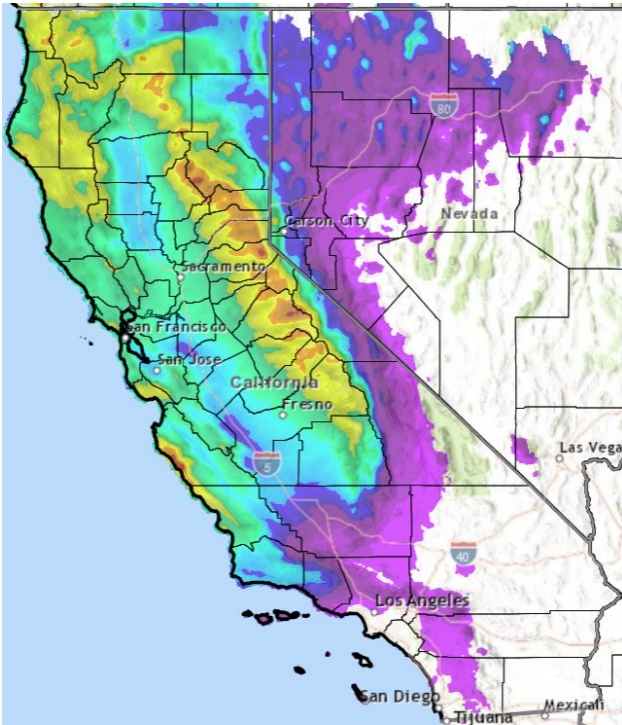
Moderate Impacts



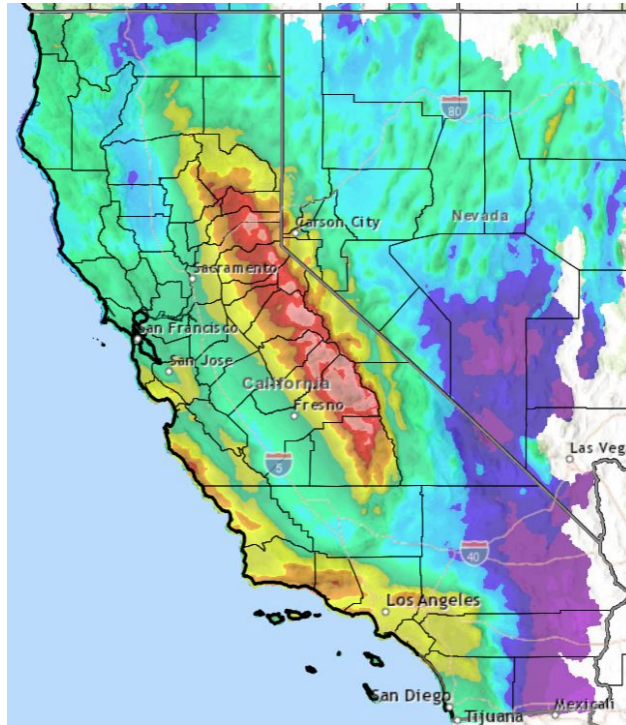
Severe Impacts

PRECIPITATION FORECAST

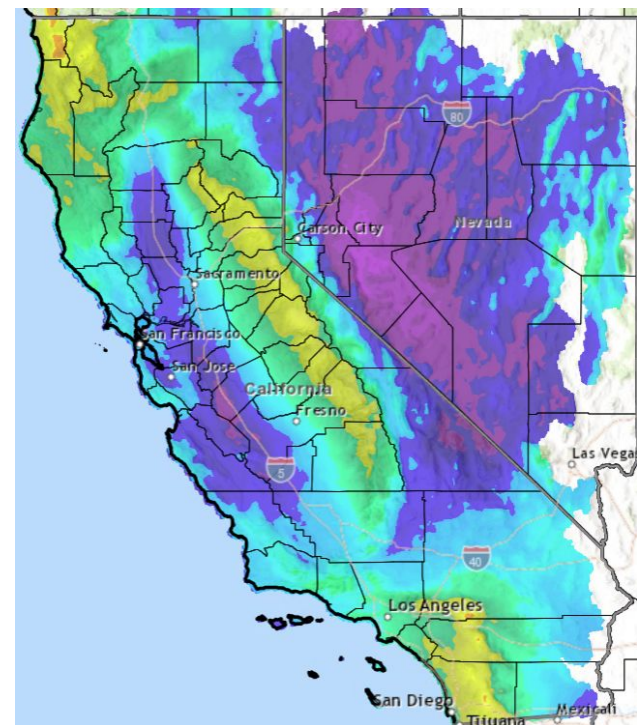
12/22/21 - 12/24/21



Wednesday



Thursday



Friday

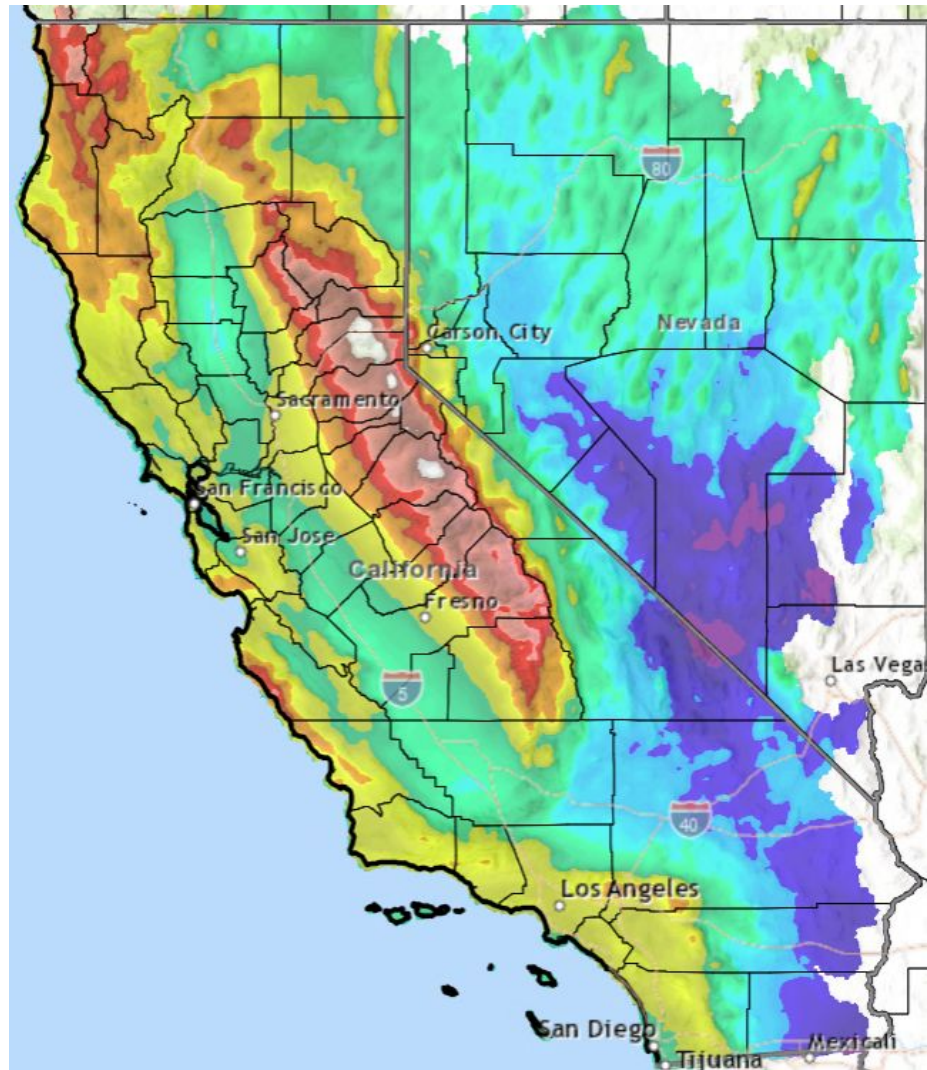
Note: Forecast precipitation amounts are an average for any particular location. Thunderstorms may produce locally higher rainfall amounts.

Precipitation (inches)



6 DAY PRECIPITATION FORECAST

4 AM 12/22/21 - 4 AM 12/28/21



Precipitation (inches)



WEATHER OUTLOOK

12/27/21 - 01/04/22

6-10 Day Outlook (December 27 – December 31)

Temperatures

- Below normal temperatures are favored statewide

Precipitation

- Above normal precipitation is favored statewide

8-14 Day Outlook (December 29 – January 4)

Temperatures

- Below normal temperatures are favored statewide, especially across northern and central California

Precipitation

- Above normal precipitation is slightly favored statewide, except for northwestern California, where near normal precipitation is favored



Information provided by:

**National Weather Service
Western Region Headquarters
Regional Operations Center
Salt Lake City, UT**

Phone: (801) 524-7907

E-mail: wr.roc@noaa.gov

Web: <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/>

